

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00804 221538Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /065 W
-----221931Z 040402 /41

R 221507Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4262
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USELMLO
IV TRANS BRIG, OBERURSEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0804

CINCEUR FOR POLAD
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC, & AEAAG-AP

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW, US, UK, UR, FR
SUBJECT: DELAY OF FRENCH SPECIAL "MANEUVER TRAIN"

1. ON MARCH 11, A FRENCH SPECIAL "MANEUVER TRAIN",
TRANSPORTING SOLDIERS AND MATERIAL FOR MANEUVERS IN
THE FRG, WAS DELAYED BY SOVIETS AT MARIENBOR, WHO,
ACCORDING TO FIRST REPORTS, DEMANDED A FRACHTBRIEF
(FREIGHT WARRANT) FOR EACH FREIGHT CAR. THEY
FINALLY LET THE TRAIN PASS WITHOUT PRESENTATION OF
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FRACHTBRIEFE, BUT SAID THESE MUST BE PROVIDED ON THE
TRAIN'S RETURN TO BERLIN OR THE TRAIN WOULD NOT BE LET
BY.

2. A REVIEW OF ALLIED PRACTICES INDICATES THAT THE
BTITISH DO USE FRACHTBRIEFE FOR FREIGHT CARS TRAVELLING
IN SPECIAL MANEUVER TRAINS SUCH AS THIS, BUT THE SOVIETS

DO NOT DEMAND, AND ARE NOT SHOWN THEM. U.S. DOES NOT RUN SPECIAL MANEUVER TRAINS, BUT ATTACHES FREIGHT CARS TO REGULAR PASSENGER TRAINS, AND THESE CARS ARE DOCUMENTED WITH FRACHTBRIEFE. FRENCH DO NOT PROVIDE FRACHTBRIEF FOR SPECIAL MANEUVER TRAINS.

3. WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS INCIDENT, BECUASE WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT REPRESENTS SIMPLE MISUNDERSTANDING OR POTENTIALLY SINISTER SOVIET INTENTIONS. SOVIET OFFICERS AT MARIENBORN ASKED U.S. TRAIN COMMANDER ON MARCH 11 WHETHER FRACHTBRIEFE WERE NECESSARY TO BRING FREIGHT THROUGH THE CHECKPOINT; CAUTIOUS REPLY WAS THAT US COMMANDER DIDN'T KNOW. QUERY AROSE FROM FACT THAT FRENCH TRAIN IN QUESTION DID NOT HAVE FRACHTBRIFE AND SOVIETS DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER THEY WERE REQUIRED. VARIANCE IN ALLIED PRACTICES AND RARITY OF THIS KIND OF FRENCH TRAIN (ABOUT 4 ROUNDTrips YEARLY) MAY ACCOUNT FOR DIFFICULTIES. LATER FRENCH REPORT SUGGESTS SOVIETS MAY NOT EVEN HAVE REQUESTED FRACHTBRIEFE, BUT ONLY USUAL PAPERS THE FRENCH PROVIDE. VARIOUS FRENCH OFFICERS HAVE DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS AS TO WHETHER SOVIET ACTIONS WERE ILL-INTENDED IN THIS CASE. SITUATION FURTHER CONFUSED BY FACT THAT FRENCH AT CHECKPOINT WERE USING BRITISH INTERPRETER WHO TRANSLATED ONLY FROM RUSSIAN TO ENGLISH. HENCE NO ONE IS QUITE SURE WHAT WAS TRULY SAID.

4. IF QUESTION RE FRACHTBRIEFE REQUIREMENT FOR FRENCH SPECIAL MANEUVER TRAINS IS RAISED BY SOVIETS AGAIN, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE PROPOSE TO ANSWER THAT ALLIED TRAINS WILL CONTINUE TO RUN BETWEEN BERLIN AND FRG IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICES OF LONG STANDING. WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR TREATMENT OF ALLIED TRAINS FOR SIGNS OF GDR/SOVIET RETALIATION OF TARIFF INCREASE ISSUE. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY EXERCISES, ROLLING STOCK
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770098-0420
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770333/aaaabcqg.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d5b1aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3030379
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELAY OF FRENCH SPECIAL "MANEUVER TRAIN"
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, GE, US, UK, UR, FR
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d5b1aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009